

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A header connector comprising:
 - (a) a header body having a front wall, the front wall having a plurality of first and second passageways disposed between an internal surface and an external surface;
 - (b) a plurality of conductive pins configured for insertion into the first passageways, each conductive pin having a first end extending from the internal surface, an intermediate section disposed in the first passageway, and a truncated second end extending from the external surface of the front wall for surface mount contact, wherein the conductive pins are not fully inserted into the first passageway; and
 - (c) a plurality of shield blades configured for insertion into the second passageways, each shield blade having a first end extending from the internal surface, an intermediate section disposed in the second passageway, and a second end extending from the external surface of the front wall.
2. (Original) The header connector of claim 1, wherein the second end of the conductive pin does not contain a spring like element.
3. (Original) The header connector of claim 1, wherein the second end of the conductive pin is substantially flat.
4. (Original) The header connector of claim 1, wherein the conductive pin moves longitudinally within the first passageways when the header connector is assembled to a printed circuit board.
5. (Original) The header connector of claim 1, wherein the shield blades are fully inserted into the second passageways of the header body.

6. (Original) The header connector of claim 1, wherein the intermediate portion of the shield blade has a generally right angle shield portion.

7. (Original) An interconnect system comprising:

(a) a printed circuit board comprising a plurality of surface mount pads and a plurality of conductive vias;

(b) the header connector of claim 1; and

(c) means for holding the header connector to the printed circuit board,

wherein when the header connector is assembled to the printed circuit board, each conductive pin of the header connector move, in relation to the front wall of the header body, longitudinally in the first passageway to contact the surface mount pads and the second end of the shield blades of the header connector mate with the conductive vias in the printed circuit board.

8. (Original) The interconnect system of claim 7, wherein the means for holding the header connector to the printed circuit board is provided by frictional force created when the shield blades mate with the conductive vias on the printed circuit board.

9. (Original) The interconnect system of claim 7, wherein the conductive pin does not contain a spring like element on its second end.

10. (Original) The interconnect system of claim 7, wherein the second end of the conductive pin is substantially flat.

11. (Original) The header connector of claim 7, wherein the shield blades are fully inserted into the second passageways of the header body.

12. (Original) The header connector of claim 7, wherein the intermediate portion of the shield blade has a generally right angle shield portion.

13. (Original) A method of assembling an interconnect system comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a printed circuit board comprising a plurality of surface mount pads and a plurality of conductive vias;
- (b) providing a header connector of claim 1; and
- (c) assembling the header connector to the printed circuit board such that the shield blades in the header body mate with the conductive vias in the printed circuit board and the conductive pins in the header body move longitudinally to make contact with the surface mount pads in the printed circuit board.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of holding the header connector to the printed circuit board.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein frictional force created when the shield blades mate with the conductive vias on the printed circuit board holds the header connector to the printed board.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the shield blades of the header connector are fully inserted into the second passageways of the header body.